

Fall Schedule

Classes begin January 5, 2015

Please check the nwts.edu website for a detailed schedule. Click on “Spring Schedule” on the opening page.

Audit Fee: \$40 per course

Greek and Hebrew courses scheduled at student and professor discretion.

WEBSITE RESOURCES

Please visit WWW.NWTS.EDU for updates, *class schedules*, *downloadable lectures and more!*

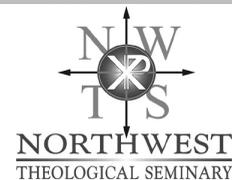
**The Board and Faculty of NWTS
wish you a Joyous Christmas and
Blessed 2015 filled with God’s
richest Grace.**



17711 Spruce Way, Lynnwood, WA 98037

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NORTHWEST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY NEWSLETTER

His story is...

Our Story

The Mystery of the Advent

With profound clarity, the apostle John expresses the mystery of the inaugural advent of Christ. He wrote of that which he had seen with his own eyes and touched with his own hands, specifically that “the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). The Word, who created all flesh in the beginning, came in the flesh at the end to create anew.

The incarnation certainly presents us with an ontological puzzle. How can the divine nature conjoin with a human nature in a single person without conversion, composition, or confusion? Yet there is perhaps a deeper mystery here than this question of “how?” and that is the confounding and perhaps unanswerable question “why?”. Why would God stoop to our level by taking on our condition? Could it be that he finds pleasure in this? This question brings us humbly before the mind of God and, therefore, leaves us confronted with the One whose ways are higher than our ways.

What brings God pleasure? The Bible is filled with texts revealing that God does all things for his own glory (e.g., Isa 48:9-11; Hab 2:14; Rom 11:36). In Hebrews 1:3, we learn that Jesus Christ is the “radiance of his glory and the exact representation of his nature.” Consequently, as the Father looks upon the Son, he sees the full radiance of his own matchless glory and he is well pleased (Matt 3:17; 17:5).

At the heart of this glory is his own eternal happiness in his perfect, infinite love. The Father loves the Son (John 3:35; 17:24). It is a love which Paul says surpasses knowledge (Eph 3:19); it is beyond our ability to comprehend. As with all of God’s attributes, it is immeasurable. Yet the Divine Son understands. He delights in the Father’s love with a complete comprehension as only God can possess. Christ perfectly and inexhaustibly apprehends and participates in that love. As the Son and Father abide in one another, so the Son delights in the Father and loves the Father with the same boundless perfection and joy as the Father communicates to him. The ineffable glory of God emanates with timeless energy from the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit as they live in eternal interpenetration of one another! One God in three persons dwelling in perfect love, perfect joy, perfect peace. He is in need of nothing outside of himself. Yet, in love, God stooped down from his eternal sanctuary in heaven and took hold of us in the form of a newborn in a manger. Why?

Why indeed would the Father send his beloved Son into this world? Why indeed would the Son take up residence as an infant in a filthy feed trough or endure the cross’s violent rending of his sweet and tender communion with the Father? Why indeed would he send his Spirit upon us—his raging enemies—that we might have the mind of Christ and be granted the gracious gift of glorifying and enjoying him forever? Yet it is the Son’s intimate identification with us in the flesh that enables us to be intimately identified with him in the Spirit. In that union, the image of Christ is pressed upon our souls and there the Father sees the Son and in seeing the Son sees the reflection of his own glory and “love[s] His own in us” (1John 15:9; 17:26).

It is amazing love pictured in the manger. Be joyfully confounded by the question “why?” and revel in the coming of our Lord. Hallelujah! *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

1“Jeremiah’s Complaint and Its Answer,” in Richard B. Gaffin Jr., ed., *Redemptive History and Biblical Interpretation: The Shorter Writings of Geerhardus Vos* (1980) 292.

—Scott F. Hunter, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of NWTs



Larry Semel Prayer Update

Thank you to the seminary community for all of your prayers on my behalf for relief from Parkinsons symptoms. The last three months have been difficult, but God is faithful and his grace is always lavish in sustaining his people. At my last doctor’s appointment, he was able to increase the programming of my deep brain stimulator and as a result, my left hand and leg are stronger and less stiff. I am getting more active all the time, reading more, doing home improvement projects and working on my model train layout. I am able to teach a Sunday school class and am scheduled to preach for the first time this year in December. My voice is still hoarse and weak and ask for prayer that it would get stronger. I continue to have stomach issues from all the medicines I’ve had to take, but the doctor has been able to take me off two of them completely and I’m hopeful that this will help. I report to the doctor again in two weeks and my next regular appointment for programming is in January. My treatment is a process and I remain confident that the full benefits from the DBS will come. I am thankful for my Savior, the leader of our salvation, who leads us by pioneering the path to glory and returns to be with us by his word and Spirit and bring us over the same path that where he is, we might be also.

New Thursday Evening Bible Study for the New Year

Beginning January 8, 2015, Rev. Dennison will launch a new study of what he has labeled one of the “wall-flower books of the Bible”. In the New Year, we will examine Paul’s poignant letter to Philemon. The study meets at 7:30pm each Thursday at the Lynnwood OPC. Presentations will also be available online and through your digital devices at nwts.edu (click “Audio Resources”).

New Book: *Merit and Moses*

We would like to inform you of a recent book published by two of our board members, Robert Van Kooten and Randy Bergquist. Along with Rev. Andrew Elam, they have written a book entitled *Merit and Moses: A Critique of the Klinean Doctrine of Republication*. This volume is a critical analysis of a teaching that has recently begun to be taught in Reformed circles based on the teaching of Dr. Meredith G. Kline’s understanding of the Mosaic covenant. Board member Lawrence Semel has written: “Thank you ... for a fine job. Not only is it well written, and an excellent treatment of the subject but the tone is gracious and Spirit filled. You have served the church well and in so far as it represents NWTs, you’ve served the seminary well also.” A review of the book will appear in the December issue of *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Theological Seminary*; it will be available online at kerux.com.

Update on Kerux

If you are not already a regular visitor, you are encouraged to visit our online journal website (www.kerux.com). All issues of *Kerux: The Journal of Northwest Seminary* are available here. These online archives provide a variety of theological articles, sermons and book reviews. For your convenience, the website allows you to search the archives by book of the Bible, author, issue, or you can enter a key word. The December issue will be available soon. It will include the “first ever” English translation of John Calvin’s *Confession on the Trinity* (1537). This is the second “first ever” English translation of a work by the Geneva Reformer which has appeared in the NWTs seminary journal. Several years ago, we featured Calvin’s little known 1542 commentary on the epistle of Jude. We are committed to continuing to provide English translations of primary documents which reflect the orthodoxy of Reformed Christians. We have recently commissioned another “first ever” English translation of yet a third work of Calvin. As with our other translations, it will be introduced by a brief summary of the historical context and will be annotated for easy understanding. Check the kerux.com website for copies, downloads (at no cost) and links.

There are also a number of audio resources available at www.nwts.edu. We are currently featuring the Thursday evening lectures by James T. Dennison on the book of Zephaniah. This Thursday evening series can be downloaded to your home computer or MP3 player. Both the Kerux articles and the NWTs audio resources are available to the public at no cost.

Comment on the Zephaniah Lectures

In listening to Jim Dennison teach on Zephaniah, I am thrilled to see how clearly I can see Christ in Zephaniah historically, through his prophecy, and in the life and heart of the prophet himself. It is interesting to see the literary structure of the book itself reflecting truths about our Lord: who he is and what he has done as well as what he will do (Jan Shreve, member of Redeeming Grace OPC, Port Angeles, WA).

A Year-End Message from the Treasurer:

Please remember us in your year-end giving. We recognize the challenges many of you face during these financially difficult times and are very grateful for the sacrificial giving you have extended to NWTs. The vast majority of the NWTs annual budget is paid for through donations. Your financial support in any amount is valuable to us, for you are the instrument by which our Sovereign Lord continues to faithfully sustain us. You will find an envelope enclosed for any gift you may wish to send this Christmas season.

We are able to accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express or debit and checks, convenient for us and for you. For instructions or questions about other ways to donate, please contact our bookkeeper, Anita Hoogerhyde, at the seminary number: (425)787-5144.

NWTs also participates in vehicle donation, matching funds donation programs from Boeing, Microsoft, Verizon, and Cardinal Health Foundation. We are registered with the Amazon Smile program as well—when making your purchase through Amazon online, please choose NWTs as the charity you wish to support. There is no added cost, other than the purchase you already choose to make from Amazon. In return NWTs will receive a small percentage that will benefit our general budget. Thank you for your support.